

BIGGEST OF ITS KIND.

Monolith from Wisconsin for the World's Fair.

A great brownstone monolith will stand in Jackson park, Chicago, during the World's fair as a specimen of what is produced from the vast quarries of Wisconsin that lie along the shores of Lake Superior.

This pillar, for which the claim is made that the world never saw its equal in size, had its origin in a statement made by Frederick Prentice, of Ashland, to ex-Governor Fife. He remarked that he could surpass the largest Egyptian production from among his quarries on the Bay-field shore of Chequamegon bay or on one of the numerous Apostle islands. To Mr. Fife it hardly seemed feasible, but the earnestness of Mr. Prentice and his declaration that if the state of Wisconsin would accept and erect the monolith he would deliver it to the state without cost for a state exhibit so impressed Mr. Fife that he opened communication with the board of World's fair managers.

This correspondence, although appearing to the commission to suggest an impossibility, led them to make a visit to Ashland, and in company with Mr. Prentice to view the quarries. After looking over the ground they practically accepted Mr. Prentice's generous tender and agreed to take the stone as soon as it was broken from its bed and move and erect the same on the grounds to be designated by the fair officials at Chicago. Accordingly work was commenced with five steam channeled and about forty men on the 1st of August last, since which time the work was pushed until the large pillar has been successfully broken from its bed and worked out.

Mr. Prentice's first proposition to furnish the monolith was for a stone just a trifle larger than the Egyptian obelisk, which is 105 feet 7 inches, exclusive of the foundation, and 9 feet square at the base. He first intended the monolith to be 106 feet in length and 9 feet 2 inches at the base, but upon a later consideration decided to have it 115 feet long, 10 feet at the base and 4 feet square at the top. The apex will be about 5 feet long and will be tapered to about a 6-inch tip. The entire monolith will rest upon a foundation of granite 10 feet high and 13 feet square.

When the stone was raised from its bed Dr. Edwin Ellis, of Ashland, made a speech to the spectators which was received with much applause.

The monolith of Lake Superior brownstone, an analysis of which is made by Professor C. T. Chandler, Ph. D., of the school of mines, Columbia college, New York, showed it to contain the following ingredients: Silica, 91.40; ferric oxide, 2.00; alumina, 3.53; lime, .25; magnesia, none; potash, 2.38; soda, .14; sulphur, none; carbonic acid, none; moisture, .05, a total of 99.75 per cent, and has an average weight of 150 pounds to the cubic foot and showing a compression of strength of 7,491 pounds per square inch.

The New French Premier.

The Panama canal is the most colossal failure of the age, and it is now known that many million dollars of the capital were used in bribing journalists and officials in France. The result is a scandal which makes the credit of the French government look small, the ruin of many eminent men and the suicide of one, a crisis in the French government, the overthrow of the Loubet ministry and the formation of a new cabinet, with M. Alexandre Felix Joseph Ribot as premier.

He was born at St. Omer Feb. 7, 1842, studied law in Paris and received his doctor's degree in 1863. He received an inferior judgeship in 1870, advanced rapidly, and in 1878 entered the legislative assembly. While on a visit to the United States he married a daughter of the late Isaac N. Burch, of Chicago, a widow and a very beautiful and intelligent woman, who is credited with doing much to aid his advancement. He has been minister of foreign affairs in two former cabinets.



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A Champion Quiltmaker. The persistence with which people often devote themselves to some sort of strange task is remarkable. It is announced that Miss Lelia Finney, of Fort Valley, Ga., who is not yet twenty years of age, has made up to date 471 quilts, twenty-seven of which were made during this year.

Honey in the School House. When the school house of the Gallatin district, in Mason Valley, Nev., was opened after the summer vacation, it was found that bees were in possession of the desks, and it is claimed that 300 pounds of honey were taken from them.

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